



Co-operative Energy Ltd

71 Franciscan Avenue
Frankston
Victoria 3199

LABORING ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVES

The Labor Opposition has been criticized for its lack of commitment to empowering consumers.

The criticism has been made by the Secretary of Co-operative Energy Ltd., Mr. David Griffiths.

Co-operative Energy was established in 1994 to promote the development of electric co-operatives.

Mr. Griffiths said: "Protecting consumers is an aim of the Labor Opposition's proposals for Victoria's restructured electric industry." (Herald-Sun, 20 April 1995).

"This aim reflects a lamentable paternalism by the Opposition and an implicit acceptance of the inevitability of privatisation i.e., the reported draft policy seeks to legislate and regulate private utilities."

"What is missing, however, is any recognition that electric consumers could empower themselves - instead of being dependent on the protective policies of a Government. "

Mr. Griffiths said that electric co-operatives would empower consumers. "Electric consumers would own and control their utilities."

"There are more than 1000 electric co-operatives in the U.S.A. owned by 12 million consumer members. Each member has one vote irrespective of their power usage."

Mr. Griffiths said that Victoria already had two electric co-operatives , the Orbost Power Co-operative Ltd and Co-operative Energy Ltd, and that a third group had applied for registration as a co-operative.

"In the same issue of the Herald-Sun, Terry McCrann has suggested that the Opposition was giving Victorians an alternative to the Government's privatisation program. The choice for Victorians is broader than public or private ownership. Co-operative ownership is a middle way - a better way."

Co-operative Energy Ltd correspondence with the Government on United Energy

22 January 1995

Letter to Mr. Michael Roux, Director, Office of State Owned Enterprises, 7th Floor, 55 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Registering an Expression of Interest in receiving the detailed Information Memorandum on United Energy.

Outcome: As of 14 April 1995, no answer.

21 February 1995

CS First Boston requests agreement on confidentiality and evidence of track history.

Outcome: Response provided, as required, on 24 February 1995.

20 March 1995

Letter to Dr. Peter Troughton, Project Manager, ESIRU, 6F, 55 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000.

Confirming Expression of Interest in receiving detailed Information Memorandum on United Energy.

Outcome: As of 14 April 1995, no answer.

20 March 1995

Letter to Dr. David Briggs, Director, Office of State Owned Enterprises, 7th Floor, 55 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Confirming Expression of Interest in receiving detailed Information Memorandum on United Energy.

Outcome: As of 14 April 1995, no answer.

8 April 1995

Letter to Dr. Peter Troughton, Project Manager, ESIRU, 6F, 55 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000.

Requesting advice on when the detailed Information Memorandum on United Energy would be made available. **Outcome: As of 14 April 1995, no answer.**

8 April 1995

Letter to Dr. David Briggs, Director, Office of State Owned Enterprises, 7th Floor, 55 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria. Requesting advice on when the detailed Information Memorandum on United

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